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30 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Finance Division

SUBJECT: Documentation for Payment of Territorial Post Differentials

1. In connection with the payment of post differentials to employees "on detail" to territories and possessions of the United States, you have requested our advice as to what documentation should be required to indicate assignments of that nature.

2. Section 350.1(g) of the Federal Personnel Manual reads as follows:

> "'on detail' at a post of duty means performing temporarily, at a post other than the post of regular assignment, duties which involve carrying out the functions of the post to which detailed. An employee is not 'on detail' to a post if he is there temporarily, in a travel status, performing duties in connection with the duties of his regular position at another post."

Thus it appears that to qualify for payment of a territorial post differential under this provision, an employee must be (a) away from his regular post (b) at a post classified for differential purposes and (c) temporarily engaged in performing duties which involve carrying out the functions of the classified post. Our examination of the regulations set out in the F.P.M. failed to indicate that the involvement of these factors, in assignments alleged to be details, must be indicated in any particular manner. However, by way of assisting you in developing procedures tending to assure that only proper claims are honored, we suggest that you may wish to require that details be evidenced by Standard Form 52, or supported by either a detailed description of the duties performed at a territorial post, or the certification of the cognizant area division.

3. Suffice to say the above are merely suggestions, the only legal requirement being that, in keeping with the purpose of the statute authorizing territorial post differentials, care is taken to ensure that payments are restricted to assignments of such character and duration as would indicate some substantial degree of permanency and which, under the circumstances, warrant the payment of additional compensation as a recruitment incentive: Cf. 31 Comp. Gen. 614, 616.

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